GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:494
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IMPORT OF GOODS FROM CHINA
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items including toys and electronic items alongwith its value imported from China during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of items including toys and electronic items alongwith its value targeted to be imported during the current year;

(c) whether imported toys from China are adversely affecting the health of the children in the country; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to ban the import of such hazardous items including toys from China?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) : The details of imported items including toys and electronic items are given in the publication `Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

Toys are classified under Chapter 95 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. Import of toys is free. As per Foreign Trade Policy, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods.

The Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory, conducted a study and submitted a report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2002 on `Assessment of Leaching of Phthalates, Metals and Colorants from Plastic Toys`. The objective of the study was to survey the types and the quality of plastic toys to which children could be exposed, extent of leaching of phthalate plasticizers, metals and colorants from various type, factors influencing the leaching of phthalate, metals and colorants from plastic toys and effect of toys on health of children through clinical examination using a questionnaire.

The study suggested that natural, non-toxic pigments and dyes be promoted and toys be manufactured using standard procedures to minimize the possible leaching of its ingredients during use.

As regards the safety requirement for toys, the Bureau of Indian Standards has published the following three standards for safety requirement for toys:-

1. IS 9873 (Part I): 2001 / ISO 8124-1:2000 Safety requirements for toys: Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.
2. IS 9873 (Part 2): 1999 / ISO 8124-2:1994 Safety requirements for toys: Part 2: Flammability requirements.
3. IS 9873 (Part 3) : 1999/ISO 8124 - 3:1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 3: Migration of certain elements, prescribed maximum acceptable element migration, for Antimony (sb), Arsenic (As), Barium (Ba), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg) and Selenium (Se) from toy materials.

The aforementioned BIS standards are neither mandatory on domestic manufacturers nor on imports. However, to improve quality of toys in the country, Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises has set up testing facilities for evaluation of toys at Testing Centres at Mumbai and New Delhi.